



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **CELEBRATIONS OF THE 75<sup>TH</sup> REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA**

The High Commission of India, Abuja, celebrated the 75th Republic Day of India on January 26, 2024, at the Chancery premises in the presence of members of the Indian Community and friends of India. In addition to Abuja, celebrations were also held in Lagos, Kano, Port Harcourt, and across Benin by Indian nationals and local friends. Around 225 guests attended the event.

2. Celebrations started with the unfurling of the National Flag by the High Commissioner, H.E. Mr. G. Balasubramanian, followed by the singing of the National Anthems. The High Commissioner addressed the gathering and read excerpts from the address of the President of India, H.E. Mrs. Droupadi Murmu, to the nation. The High Commissioner highlighted the achievements and responsibilities of the Republic of India. There were cultural performances by the members of the Indian community, which included dance performances by kids and the singing of patriotic songs. Winners of the poetry recitation competition held on January 10, 2024, on the occasion of World Hindi Day were also awarded during the celebrations.

3. On the occasion of the 75th Republic Day of India, an official grand reception was organised by the High Commissioner at the Chancery Premises in the evening of January 26, 2024. Around 600 guests, including Nigerian dignitaries such as H.E. Mrs. Hannatu Musawa, Hon'ble Minister of Art, Culture and Creative Economy ; H.E. Dr. Jamila Bio Ibrahim, Minister of Youth Development ; H.E. Senator Uba Sani, Executive Governor of Kaduna State ; H.E. Mrs Pauline Kedem Tallen, Former Minister of Women Affairs attended the reception. Several ambassadors, members of the Diplomatic Corps, officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, representatives from various Federal Ministries, Departments, State Governments, representatives of prominent Businesses, prominent members of the Indian community and friends from Media attended the reception.

4. The High Commissioner welcomed the guests and delivered an address briefly outlining the importance of Republic Day and the highlights of India-Nigeria bilateral relations and recent developments. This was followed by remarks by H.E Yusuf M. Tuggar, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nigeria ably represented by Ambassador Alex Kefas and a sumptuous reception. The event was also witnessed by several cultural performances by Nigerian as well as Indian artist.

**Abuja**

**26<sup>th</sup> January, 2024**